

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Friday, March 27th, 2015 from 2:00 PM –3:33 PM
 Location of Meeting: Metro Schools, Director’s Office

Call to order: The Board Chair, Abdulkadir Abdalla, called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM on Friday, March 27th, 2015.

Board Members Present or Absent:

Name	Present/Absent
Abdulkadir Abdalla (Board Chair & Community Member)	P
Mohamed Mohamud (Vice Chair & Community Member)	P
Abraham Gadalla (Board Treasury & Community Member)	P
Katie White (Secretary & Teacher Board Member)	P
Megan Ormseth (Teacher Board Member)	P
Osman Samatar (Parent Board Member)	A
Mohammad Osman (Community Board Member)	P

Guests and Community Members Present:

Name	Position/Role
Ahmed Elmi	School Director of Metro Schools
Keillen Curtis	Legal Counsel to the Board
Robert Procaccini, CPA	Finance Representative (Dieci School Finance, LLC)
David Greenberg	Audubon Center of the North Woods (Authorizer)

Metro Schools’ Mission

Metro Schools College Prep is committed to academic excellence and closing the achievement gap by establishing rigorous goals for students, parents, teachers and the school. Metro Schools College Prep values cultural, religious, ethnic, and socioeconomic diversity as central elements of a college preparatory education and provides a caring learning community that prepares students and staff to be responsible world citizens.

Metro Schools’ Vision

The vision of Metro Schools is for our students to have a steadfast belief in their worth as human beings and that they will be prepared socially and academically to fulfill their aspirations in a changing, challenging world community. We aim to be widely recognized as the most effective model for closing the achievement gap and preparing students for careers in the 21st century.

Call to Order

1. Agenda & Minutes:

Subject	Agenda for 3/2015 meeting and 2/2015 minutes		
Motion	Approval of 3/2015 meeting agenda Approval of the 2/2015 minutes		
Made by	White	Seconded by	Abdalla
Discussion	Mohamud reported that he did not meet with a consultant to review/revise Metro Schools' mission and vision and had nothing to present to the Board		
Vote	Yea 5	Nay 0	Abstain 0
Decision	Approval of 3/2015 meeting agenda Approval of 2/2015 minutes		

2. Bills and Financials:

Subject	Bills and financials for February 2015		
Motion	Approval of bills and financials for February 2015		
Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procaccini reported financials to the Board • Metro Schools budgeted 270 ADM • Actual Current ADM = 270 students • Many areas are under budget (positive) • Cash flow is good = more cash currently on hand for school (not need to open line of credit, but the option is there) • Procaccini reported the goal is to move all accounts to Sunrise Bank as soon as possible (eliminate the issues with BMO) • Abdalla suggested that Elmi review his unemployment payment options (reimbursement option vs. insurance) 		
Made by	Gadalla	Seconded by	Mohamud
Vote	Yea 6	Nay 0	Abstain 0
Decision	Approval of bills/financials for February 2015		

Director's Report

1. MARSS update

Subject	MARSS update
Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School most recently at 284 • Waiting list for high school (due to scheduling alignments / transfer credits)

2. Staffing Updates

Subject	Staffing hires and open positions
Discussion	<p>HIRES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special Education caseload has increased so more staff have been hired • Muna Nur hired as paraprofessional for middle school • Hamdi Gedi hired as paraprofessional • Yusuf Ali as paraprofessional (bus aide for specific student) • Benjamin Beckman hired as Physical Education teacher • John Slavik hired as Dean of Middle School <p>OPEN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Still searching for Reading Specialist • Searching for part-time Somali speaker to assist with calls home and translating

3. May Board Meeting Items

Subject	Items to be covered at May Board Meeting
Discussion	<p>The following items will be covered at the May Board Meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget for 2015-2016 • Board Election dates • Board Training • Food Contract

4. Summer School / Recruitment

Subject	Updates on summer school and recruitment plans
Discussion	<p>Summer school for grades 8 -12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More money allocated to summer school than in past years • Summer school hours will run longer (more students need credits to graduate) • Independent study offered for graduating students <p>Recruitment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Money will be appropriated for this • Elmi has a team that will start conversations in May with current students (finish by end of the school year in June) • Team will start calling new families in July

5. Wells Fargo Account

Subject	Wells Fargo Account
Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School’s insurance (Blue Cross and Blue Shield) partnered with a co-op to receive less expensive rates • Account with Wells Fargo is required • School will receive invoices from BCBS and payment will be automatically transferred from Sunrise to Wells Fargo

6. Testing Updates

Subject	Updates on school-wide testing
Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACCESS testing finished March 20 • MCA approaching – schedules are out; technology is ready

Community Comments

None

New Business

1. Authorizer Updates

Subject	Updates from ACNW (David Greenberg) on charter renewal
Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metro has been renewed for a 3-year term with a probationary period • Probationary period = school has clear benchmarks to meet • David explained the contracting process (tasks and timeline) that Metro needs to accomplish over the next 2 months • David stated that Board and school staff MUST be notified of this (renewal approval) • Board has not received the full review/evaluation (David→Elmi MUST send this out immediately)

2. Check Card / Credit Card Policy

Subject	Policy for use of check card / credit card at Metro
Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keillen Curtis & Elmi explained the policy created for use of a check card or credit card • Abdalla suggested cancelling cards and strictly using reimbursements • David reminded meeting that all parties on the Board need to provide input and feedback, not just a select few • Keillen & Elmi will develop a more Metro-specific policy and bring it to the next meeting • Policy tabled – will be voted on next meeting

3. Site Expansion

Subject	Metro possible expansion		
Motion	Approval of expansion request		
Discussion	Elmi reported <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community wants K – 4 expansion over the next 2 – 3 years • Families want to send all children to Metro Schools (K – 12) • Elmi said that he and the admin team (with Katia Colon-Holmers) made this decision to apply for the request • David explained the timeline & tasks for such a request • Mohamud, White, and Ormseth asked for additional information (action steps, plan) before voting – no information or plan was available • Gadalla, Abdalla, and M. Osman voted in favor of the expansion request • White and Ormseth voted against the request • Mohamud abstained from voting 		
Made by	Gadalla	Seconded by	Abdalla
Vote	Yea 3	Nay 2	Abstain 1
Decision	Expansion request NOT approved at this time		

4. Transportation Contract / Start Time

Subject	Policy for use of check card / credit card at Metro
Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metro’s one bus is too expensive to maintain -- school is looking to sell it • More effective to 100% contract busing • Contracts not prepared for this meeting – will be available next meeting • Elmi will add “start time” to the next meeting’s agenda

Meeting was adjourned at 3:33 PM by Abdulkadir Abdalla, the Board chair.